In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An automated prescription dispensing system comprising:

a patient interface having a data interface configured for entering information correlated to the

patient and a receptacle through which medication is dispensed;

a dispenser disposed in communication with the patient interface portion for holding and dispensing

medication, the dispenser comprising a plurality of receiving slots, each of the receiving slots being

configured for holding one or more prescriptions associated with a patient; and

a controller in communication with the dispensing portion for selectively controlling the dispensing

of medication from the dispenser, the controller being configured to dispense all of the prescriptions

contained in one of the receiving slots disposed in the dispensing portion in response to information

correlated to the patient.

2. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the data interface

comprises a keyboard.

3. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the data interface

comprises a magnetic card reader.

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4. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the patient interface further comprises a display screen.

5. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the patient interface further comprises a speaker.

6. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the patient interface further comprises a printer.

7. (Previously Amended) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the dispenser comprises a plurality of medication receiving slots, at least one of the medication receiving slots holding a plurality of different prescriptions for a single patient.

8. (Currently Amended) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 7, wherein the dispenser comprises at least one door disposed adjacent each receiving slot for selectively controlling the passage of medication out of only that receiving slot and through the dispenser.

9. (Previously Amended) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 8, further comprising an access door associated with each receiving slot for selectively preventing placement of medication into that receiving slot.

10. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 8, wherein the at least one door comprises a dispensing door for selectively releasing medication from the receiving slot.

11. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of sensors for determining the presence of medication within the plurality of receiving slots.

12. (Currently Amended) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to track the location of the patient's medication disposed in one of the plurality of receiving slots by patient information.

13. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the control comprises a data interface for entering information about each prescription loaded into the dispenser.

14. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 13, wherein the data interface comprises a keyboard.

15. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 13, wherein the date interface comprises a scanner.

16. (Previously Amended) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a processor programed to record information regarding the location of medications labeled for a particular patient within the dispenser.

17. (Original) The automated prescription dispensing system of claim 1, wherein the controller further comprises a communications interface for communicating with remote locations.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for automated prescription dispensing comprising:

filling a prescription by obtaining a container with medication therein and applying a label containing patient information;

loading the prescription into a dispenser; and

dispensing the prescription to the patient from the dispenser in response to input of data correlated to the patient.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein method comprises placing the prescription into a receiving slot of a dispenser having a plurality of receiving slots disposed therein.

20. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the method comprises correlating a receiving slot in which the prescription is placed with information regarding the patient prior to access by the patient.

21. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising releasing a plurality of prescriptions from a receiving slot in the dispenser in response to input of data correlated to the patient.

22. (Original) The method accord to claim 18, wherein the method comprises dispensing the prescription after the patient has entered a personal identification number.

23. (Previously Amended) A method for dispensing medication from a dispenser having a plurality of receiving slots, the method comprising:

opening an available receiving slot;

inputting patient information regarding a prescription;

disposing the prescription in the receiving slot;

closing the receiving slot; and

dispensing the prescription from the receiving slot to a patient for whom the patient information was entered.

24. - 27. (Canceled) A method for verifying a refill prescription, the method comprising:

28. (Currently Amended) A method for billing prescriptions, the method comprising:

filling a prescription, including labeling a container of medicine with patient information;

loading the prescription into an automated dispensing system;

dispensing the prescription to a patient from the automated dispensing system in response to information correlated to the patient; and

generating a bill responsive to dispensing of the prescription.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for more efficiently filling prescriptions, the method comprising:

collecting information for a plurality of prescriptions at a central processing location;

filling the prescriptions, including applying patient information to a medicament container; and

transporting the prescriptions to a plurality of local pharmacies.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the method comprises receiving prescription information at local pharmacies and relaying the information to the central processing location.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein the method comprises organizing the prescriptions into groups based on the medication prescribed and filling the prescriptions by group.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 29, further comprising loading the prescriptions into an automated dispensing system at the local pharmacy.

33. (Previously Added) A method for automated prescription dispensing comprising:

filling a plurality of prescriptions for a patient;

loading the plurality of prescriptions into a receiving slot of a dispenser; and

dispensing the plurality of prescriptions to the patient in response to input of data correlated to the patient.

34. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 33, wherein the method further comprises using a sensor to ensure that all of the prescriptions in the receiving slot were dispensed to the patient.

35. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises having a door which selectively holds the prescriptions in the receiving slot and opening the door to release the prescriptions from the receiving slot.

36 (Previously Added) A method for dispensing medication from a dispenser having a plurality of receiving slots, the method comprising:

selecting an receiving slot;

placing a container containing a prescribed medication in the receiving slot; and

dispensing the container from the receiving slot to a patient such that the prescription includes patient information thereon.

37. (Previously Added) The method for dispensing medication according to claim 36, wherein the method comprises selecting a first receiving slot and disposing a first prescription labeled for a first patient in the first receiving slot, selecting a second receiving slot and disposing a second prescription labeled for a second patient in the second receiving slot and selectively dispensing the first prescription and the second prescription to the first patient and the second patient.